

Message Text

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SUBJ: NIGERIAN POSITION ON ANGOLA

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF NIGERIAN MISSION PRESS RELEASE
DATED "JANUARY 1976", DISTRIBUTED TO OTHER MISSIONS JANUARY
16, ENTITLED "NIGERIA RENEWS HER PLEDGE TO ANGOLA":

QUOTE:

NIGERIA RENEWS HER PLEDGE TO ANGOLA

THE FEDERAL COMMISSIONER FOR INFORMATION, BRIGADIER
I.B.N. HARUNA, STRESSED IN LAGOS TODAY THAT NIGERIA'S
RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF THE M.P.L.A.
WAS IRREVOCABLE.

THE COMMISSIONER MADE THIS STATEMENT WHILE EXCHANGING
NEWS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER OF ANGOLA, MR. LOPO DO NASCIMENTO.

BRIGADIER HARUNA SAID THAT NIGERIA WAS NOT ONLY ANXIOUS
TO ASSOCIATE HERSELF WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE,
BUT WOULD SPARE NO EFFORT TO EDUCATE NIGERIANS ABOUT THE
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PEOPLE OF ANGOLA AND TO OFFER THEM MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT

TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL OF COMPLETE POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDEPENDENCE.

THE COMMISSIONER SAID THAT FULL PUBLICITY ON ANGOLA WOULD BE ORGANISED IN NIGERIA SO THAT ALL NIGERIANS COULD BE FULLY INFORMED ABOUT SITUATIONS IN THAT COUNTRY.

IN CONNECTION WITH THIS, BRIGADIER HARUNA SAID, A DELEGATION OF THE MASS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FROM NIGERIA COULD VISIT ANGOLA TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE COUNTRY AND COLLECT CULTURAL MATERIALS INCLUDING ANGOLAN MUSIC, ARTIFACTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS WITH WHICH TO EDUCATE THE NIGERIAN PUBLIC. HE ALSO SOUGHT FOR THE COOPERATION OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT FOR NIGERIANS VISITING ANGOLA TO COLLECT PUBLICITY MATERIALS.

BRIGADIER HARUNA ASSURED THE ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER THAT NIGERIA'S SUPPORT FOR THAT COUNTRY WOULD NOT BE LIMITED TO PUBLICITY AND CULTURAL FIELDS BUT WOULD BE EXTENDED TO ALL POSSIBLE AREAS OF ASSISTANCE TO "ALLEVIATE THE SUFFERINGS OF OUR BROTHERS IN ANGOLA".

THE COMMISSIONER OBSERVED THAT THE TIME HAD COME WHEN AFRICAN COUNTRIES MUST PROMOTE EFFECTIVE COOPERATION WITH ONE ANOTHER. THIS, HE SAID, WOULD PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE WEAPON AGAINST THE DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES OF COLONIALISTS WHO HAD SIPHONED AFRICAN WEALTH TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN COUNTRIES.

HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH NIGERIA WAS FORTUNATE TO WIN INDEPENDENCE WITHOUT FIGHTING A WAR, A FEW YEARS LATER, SHE HAD TO FIGHT TO KEEP THE COUNTRY UNITED AGAINST THE FORCES OF DIVISIONISTS WHO WANTED TO BREAK THE COUNTRY UP BECAUSE OF THE OIL WEALTH.

BRIGADIER HARUNA ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA WERE NOT ALONE IN THEIR STRUGGLE, ADDING THAT IF POSSIBLE, NIGERIA WOULD JOIN ANGOLA TO FIGHT THE COMMON ENEMIES OF AFRICA.

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REPLYING, THE ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE COMMISSIONER'S PRONOUNCEMENTS AND AGREED THAT IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES SHOULD COOPERATE IN A NUMBER OF AREAS, INCLUDING THAT OF PUBLICITY.

MR. MASCIMENTO SAID THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD WELCOME A DELEGATION OF BETWEEN EIGHT AND TEN MASS MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES AT A DATE TO BE AGREED UPON BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS.

HE SAID ALSO THAT HIS COUNTRY WOULD WELCOME AN OFFER OF
FACILITIES FOR THE TRAINING OF ANGOLAN PERSONNEL IN TELEVISION,
RADIO AND OTHER MASS COMMUNICATION CHANNELS.
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